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**From:** Shine, Brenda [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=AF5901AF23C444F8AE77220210DB12E2-BSHINE]  
**Sent:** 1/22/2020 7:14:39 PM  
**To:** Palma, Ted [Palma.Ted@epa.gov]; Terry, Sara [Terry.Sara@epa.gov]; Bremer, Kristen [Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Mills, Kathy [Mills.Kathy@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: ACTION: release at PES Philadelphia refinery, for WHY public radio Philly

ok

Brenda Shine  
Refining and Chemicals Group  
USEPA/OAR/OAQPS/SPPD  
(919) 541 3608 (office)  
(919) 812-8144 (cell)

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**From:** Palma, Ted <Palma.Ted@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 2:12 PM  
**To:** Terry, Sara <Terry.Sara@epa.gov>; Bremer, Kristen <Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov>; Shine, Brenda <Shine.Brenda@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Mills, Kathy <Mills.Kathy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: ACTION: release at PES Philadelphia refinery, for WHY public radio Philly

I am OK with the risk sentence part, Brenda will have to approve "full compliance"

Ted

Ted Palma  
USEPA  
OAQPS/HEID/ATAG  
MD C539-02  
RTP, NC 27711

919-541-5470 (work)  
[palma.ted@epa.gov](mailto:palma.ted@epa.gov)

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**From:** Terry, Sara <Terry.Sara@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 12:51 PM  
**To:** Bremer, Kristen <Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov>; Shine, Brenda <Shine.Brenda@epa.gov>; Palma, Ted <Palma.Ted@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Mills, Kathy <Mills.Kathy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: ACTION: release at PES Philadelphia refinery, for WHY public radio Philly

What about this, in terms of the action levels. Brenda, is the technical part of this accurate? Am including Ted as well.

As noted the final refinery RTR, 9 ug/m3 represents a value that EPA determined all refineries should be able to meet if they are in full compliance with refinery MACT standards. This level does not correlate to any particular metric associated with risk.

Sara

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**From:** Bremer, Kristen <[Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov](mailto:Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 11:22 AM  
**To:** Shine, Brenda <[Shine.Brenda@epa.gov](mailto:Shine.Brenda@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mills, Kathy <[Mills.Kathy@epa.gov](mailto:Mills.Kathy@epa.gov)>; Terry, Sara <[Terry.Sara@epa.gov](mailto:Terry.Sara@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: ACTION: release at PES Philadelphia refinery, for WHY public radio Philly

Thanks. Anything we can say about actions levels and "penalties" for emitting above the action level?

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Kristen Bremer  
Policy Analysis & Communications  
U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards  
Email: [bremers.kristen@epa.gov](mailto:bremers.kristen@epa.gov)  
Phone: 919.541.9424  
Cell: 919.321.7652

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**From:** Shine, Brenda <[Shine.Brenda@epa.gov](mailto:Shine.Brenda@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 11:20 AM  
**To:** Bremer, Kristen <[Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov](mailto:Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mills, Kathy <[Mills.Kathy@epa.gov](mailto:Mills.Kathy@epa.gov)>; Terry, Sara <[Terry.Sara@epa.gov](mailto:Terry.Sara@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: ACTION: release at PES Philadelphia refinery, for WHY public radio Philly

Thought it looked pretty good. Here are my edits in blue.

Brenda Shine  
Refining and Chemicals Group  
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(919) 812-8144 (cell)

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**From:** Bremer, Kristen <[Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov](mailto:Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 8:24 AM  
**To:** Mills, Kathy <[Mills.Kathy@epa.gov](mailto:Mills.Kathy@epa.gov)>; Terry, Sara <[Terry.Sara@epa.gov](mailto:Terry.Sara@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Shine, Brenda <[Shine.Brenda@epa.gov](mailto:Shine.Brenda@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** ACTION: release at PES Philadelphia refinery, for WHY public radio Philly  
**Importance:** High

The following press inquiry bounced around, and the region has kicked it to us. Philadelphia public radio is asking the following questions. I've included draft responses in red (#4 may need some tweaking). Some of these are health-based questions so I'm including both SPPD and HEID:

Regarding this story published yesterday: <https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/massive-oil-refinery-leaks-toxic-chemical-middle-philadelphia-n1115336>  
Some questions:

1. PES refinery had an average of 49 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in a year and one monitor detected a peak of 190 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The EPA action level is 9 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

a. Is the action level set to protect public health? Are levels above the action level a threat to public health?

b. Does the company gets penalties for emitting over the action level? Is there any point at which they get penalties?

2. Why didn't EPA made the information public? According to this presentation by the EPA, one of the benefits of monitoring is keeping the public informed. [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/state\\_local\\_tribal\\_webinar\\_june\\_2016.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/state_local_tribal_webinar_june_2016.pdf)

EPA continues to be committed to working to reduce emissions of toxic air pollution from all types of facilities, including refineries. As required by a 2015 EPA regulation, all US refineries have been collecting benzene concentration data at the perimeter (fence-line) of their facilities and started submitting those data to EPA in summer 2019.

Information about the PES facility's fence-line monitoring data was shared with the City of Philadelphia in May, 2019 and these data have been available publicly through EPA's Webfire data portal since June, 2019. Data continues to be collected and posted on a quarterly basis. EPA also shares general risk related information on benzene and other chemicals on our websites. As we go about our work in communities across the country, we work closely with state and tribal agencies and local partners on the ground. We often rely on permitting agencies and local partners to take the lead on connecting to the community to share information about local public health concerns and risks.

3. The same presentation says public display of fenceline refinery data will be available to the public in the summer 2019. Is it? Where?

The data are posted on our WebFIRE site at: <https://cfpub.epa.gov/webfire/> I've attached instructions that provide information on searching and retrieving reports.

4. The monitors recorded 190 micrograms per cubic meter, which you Philadelphia Health Dept told us is still not a threat to public health. But the NBC, E&E story says emissions could have been higher "since PES noted that the reading "exceeds instrument calibration range." Is that correct? If so, how can EPA or city health department decide if it's a public threat or not?

It is important to note that benzene concentration levels monitored at the perimeter of refineries do not reflect benzene levels in the community. Rather the monitoring data, and in particular, the annual average difference between upwind and downwind monitoring values is an indicator of the benzene emissions from facilities. Upon receipt of the first information submittals in May 2019, EPA began working with State and local agencies to evaluate the data and compare it to the requirements of the 2015 Refinery Sector Rule. The rule, under specific circumstances, requires facilities to identify the root causes of exceedances and take corrective actions. The PES refinery did submit a root cause analysis and corrective action plan to the City of Philadelphia in June, 2019 and identified measures taken to reduce fugitive emissions of benzene.

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Kristen Bremer  
Policy Analysis & Communications  
U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards  
Email: [bremer.kristen@epa.gov](mailto:bremer.kristen@epa.gov)  
Phone: 919.541.9424  
Cell: 919.321.7652

**From:** "White, Terri-A" <[White.Terri-A@epa.gov](mailto:White.Terri-A@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** January 17, 2020 at 5:25:20 PM EST  
**To:** "Jones, Enesta" <[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov](mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov)>, "Davis, Alison" <[Davis.Alison@epa.gov](mailto:Davis.Alison@epa.gov)>, "Bremer, Kristen" <[Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov](mailto:Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov)>, "DeLuca, Isabel" <[DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov](mailto:DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov)>, "Beal, Madeline" <[Beal.Madeline@epa.gov](mailto:Beal.Madeline@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Landis, Jeffrey" <[Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>, "Nitsch, Chad" <[Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov](mailto:Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov)>, "Noonan, Jenny" <[Noonan.Jenny@epa.gov](mailto:Noonan.Jenny@epa.gov)>, "Grantham, Nancy"

<Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>

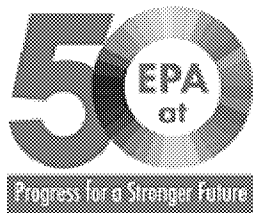
**Subject: RE: Benzene release at PES Philadelphia refinery, for WHY Y public radio Philly**

All,

Now that I've taken a thorough look at the reporter's questions and the EPA slide presentation she links to, I realize that OAQPS should take the lead in preparing responses. Let me know what support R3 can provide. I did speak with the reporter and told her we needed more time to get answers to her questions. I said we'd aim for Tuesday next week. She is fine with that.

*Terri*

Terri A. White  
Chief, Communications Branch  
Office of Public Affairs  
EPA Region 3  
215-814-5523  
[white.terri-a@epa.gov](mailto:white.terri-a@epa.gov)



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**From:** White, Terri-A

**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2020 4:37 PM

**To:** Jones, Enesta <[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov](mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov)>; Davis, Alison <[Davis.Alison@epa.gov](mailto:Davis.Alison@epa.gov)>;  
Bremer, Kristen <[Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov](mailto:Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov)>; DeLuca, Isabel <[DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov](mailto:DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov)>

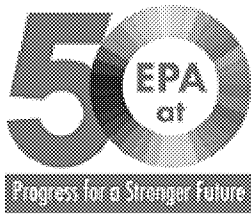
**Subject:** RE: Benzene release at PES Philadelphia refinery, for WHY Y public radio Philly

Hi Enesta,

Just seeing this. Let me read through. I should be able to get back to the reporter.

*Terri*

Terri A. White  
Chief, Communications Branch  
Office of Public Affairs  
EPA Region 3  
215-814-5523  
[white.terri-a@epa.gov](mailto:white.terri-a@epa.gov)



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**From:** Jones, Enesta <[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov](mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2020 4:20 PM  
**To:** White, Terri-A <[White.Terri-A@epa.gov](mailto:White.Terri-A@epa.gov)>; Davis, Alison <[Davis.Alison@epa.gov](mailto:Davis.Alison@epa.gov)>; Bremer, Kristen <[Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov](mailto:Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov)>; DeLuca, Isabel <[DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov](mailto:DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Benzene release at PES Philadelphia refinery, for WHYH public radio Philly

- press box. Terri, is the region taking the lead here? Trying to close loops as the day comes to an end...

From: "Jones, Enesta" <[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov](mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** January 17, 2020 at 2:02:55 PM EST  
**To:** "Davis, Alison" <[Davis.Alison@epa.gov](mailto:Davis.Alison@epa.gov)>, "Bremer, Kristen" <[Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov](mailto:Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov)>, "DeLuca, Isabel" <[DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov](mailto:DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov)>, "White, Terri-A" <[White.Terri-A@epa.gov](mailto:White.Terri-A@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>, "Nitsch, Chad" <[Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov](mailto:Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Benzene release at PES Philadelphia refinery, for WHYH public radio Philly

Looping R3 & OAQPS together for this one.

**From:** "Jones, Enesta" <[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov](mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** January 17, 2020 at 2:01:37 PM EST  
**To:** Catalina Jaramillo <[cjaramillo@whyy.org](mailto:cjaramillo@whyy.org)>  
**Cc:** "Block, Molly" <[block.molly@epa.gov](mailto:block.molly@epa.gov)>, Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>, "Nitsch, Chad" <[Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov](mailto:Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov)>, "White, Terri-A" <[White.Terri-A@epa.gov](mailto:White.Terri-A@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Benzene release at PES Philadelphia refinery, for WHYH public radio Philly

Looping our press box. A colleague will be in touch, Catalina.

On Jan 17, 2020, at 2:00 PM, Catalina Jaramillo <[cjaramillo@whyy.org](mailto:cjaramillo@whyy.org)> wrote:

Hi,

Regarding this story published yesterday: <https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/massive->

Some questions:

1. PES refinery had an average of 49 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in a year and one monitor detected a peak of 190 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The EPA action level is 9 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
  - a. Is the action level set to protect public health? Are levels above the action level a threat to public health?
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2. Why didn't EPA made the information public?  
According to this presentation by the EPA, one of the benefits of monitoring is keeping the public informed. [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/state local tribal webinar june 2016.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/state_local_tribal_webinar_june_2016.pdf)

3. The same presentation says public display of fenceline refinery data will be available to the public in the summer 2019. Is it? Where?
4. The monitors recorded 190 micrograms per cubic meter, which you Philadelphia Health Dept told us is still not a threat to public health. But the NBC, E&E story says emissions could have been higher "since PES noted that the reading "exceeds

instrument calibration  
range." Is that correct? If so,  
how can EPA or city health  
department decide if it's a  
public threat or not?

Thank you. My deadline is 5pm.

Catalina Jaramillo  
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